

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,326,957 to Rosenberg (hereinafter Rosenberg) and US Patent 4,525,182 to Rising *et al.* (hereinafter Rising). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because each one of the references fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth, *inter alia*, a flat filter for venting gas in intravenous medical lines, comprising: a dorsal plate; a collecting channel extending longitudinally along the centerline of the dorsal plate; and a single vent hole positioned in a substantially median position of the collecting channel.

A flat filter according to one aspect of the present invention is configured to be connected to an infusion medical line extending generally vertically from a storage vessel containing a medical solution to an intravenous administration needle connected to a patient. The central symmetrical arrangement of the collecting channel 15 together with the median position of the vent hole 14 relative to the collecting channel 15 enables the flat filter to be operative in any position, i.e., with its inlet and outlet 6, 7, indifferently positioned upwards or downwards. See, for example, Fig. 1 and the specification at page 6, lines 4-8.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Rosenberg discloses a vent 26 which is positioned away from the centerline of the dorsal plate, and along one side of the filter case. Accordingly, Rosenberg's flat filter must properly be oriented in only one position, namely with the inlet 31 placed on top. Otherwise, in case of reversed wrong orientation, efficiency of the flat filter would be jeopardized.

Also in contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Rising discloses vent openings 30, 32 which are not placed in a substantially median position of a collecting channel that extends longitudinally substantially along a centerline of a dorsal plate. Instead, Rising's vent openings are placed such that the filter must properly be oriented in only one position, namely with the inlet 20 placed on top.

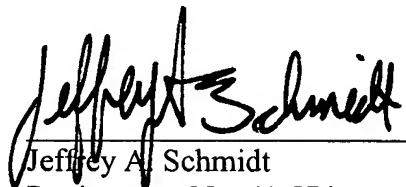
In light of the above, each one of Rosenberg and Rising fails to anticipate claim 1. Likewise, these references fail to anticipate dependent claims 2 and 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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